[English]

Printing Press, Salboni

4590. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Printing Press at Salboni in West Bengal has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Press is likely to start functioning by the end of 1999.

Seizure of Foreign Exchange

4591. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enforcement officials of Delhi have unearthed some big rackets of foreign exchange in the capital during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details of such rackets;

(c) whether foreign exchange and gold in large quantity were seized at International Airport of Delhi during the above period; and

(d) if so, the quantity of foreign exchange and gold seized therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Details of cases involving seizure of substantial amounts of foreign exchange by the Enforcement Directorate, Delhi are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). Details of foreign exchange and gold seized at the International Airport, Delhi during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Quantity of Gold seized (in kg.)	Value of foreign exchange seized (Rs. in thousand)
1994-95	54.619	11,715
1995-96	106.438	21,005
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	30.00	5,535

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the party	Details of seizure
1.	1994	Sh. Mohd. Akram & Smt. Naseem	Foreign Exchange worth Rs. 14.80 lakhs
2.	1994	Shri Lakhbir Singh	Foreign Exchange worth Rs. 1.25 crores & 1680 Tolas of Gold.
3.	1995	Shri R.K. Goel	Foreign Exchange worth Rs. 10 lakhs.
4.	1996	Shri Natwar Dalmia & others	Foreign Exchange worth Rs. 75 lakhs.
5.	1996	Shri Prakash Lunia & others.	Gold weighing 11 kgs. + US $.100

Issue of Special import licences under negative list

4592. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of special import licences, issued under the negative list of items during each of the last three years;

(b) whether many cases are considerably delayed causing inconvenience to exporters;

(c) if so, the number of cases pending for clearance as on date; and

(d) the time by which these licences are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Total number of licences issued during the last three years are as under:-

Period	Import Licences	Customs Clearance Permit
1993-94	730	220
1994-95	901	242
1995-96	971	174

(b) to (d). Special Import Licences are given for imports of restricted items for domestic use, generally to actual users. Therefore, the question of causing inconvenience to exporters does not arise. However, every effort is made to ensure that